

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION**

P.O. Box 944246

SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460

Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov/licensing/licensing_main.html

(916) 653-8031

**Professional Foresters Examining Committee****OPEN SESSION MEETING/TELECONFERENCE MINUTES****Held: December 13, 2012**

Resources Building, 1416 9th Street
15th Floor Large Conference Room, No. 1506-12
Sacramento, California

Members Present: Doug Ferrier, Chairman
Ray Flynn
Kim Rodrigues
Otto van Emmerik, Vice Chairman
Keith Gilles (by phone)
Tom Osipowich (by phone)

Staff Participating: Matt Dias, Executive Officer Foresters Licensing

Members of Public: Larry Ford, Cal-Pac CRM Panel for Agenda Item 8

1. Approval of Open Session Minutes of December 15, 2011 Meeting.

12-13-01 Member van Emmerik moved to approve the open session minutes and Member Flynn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, with a single abstention from Member Osipowich.

2. Reports of Chairman and Executive Officer.

The Chairman deferred the report to the Executive Officer Dias. The Executive Officer reported that the Licensing Office will be fully staffed as of December 17th, 2013 with the recent hiring of Shuhani Patel. Ms. Patel comes to the Licensing Office with two years' experience from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The Executive Officer also reported that he had discussed the potential for the PFEC to meet at Humboldt State University with Natural Resources Department Chair, Ken Fulgham. Mr. Fulgham indicated that there may be utility in having the PFEC meet at HSU for the student body, particularly during the time of year when FOR 471 (Administration Course) is being offered. The PFEC will discuss meetings at locations other than Sacramento based upon schedules of Members and Agenda Items. It was expressed that it may be more effective to have the Licensing Officer travel to the various

Universities and conduct outreach given that past meetings of the PFEC at Universities have not been well attended.

It was reported that the contract process has again been initiated to replace the late George Belden as an Expert Grader for future RPF Examinations.

The final item reported on was the current status of the SAF accreditation of the forestry program at California University, Berkeley (Cal). The Executive Officer was recently notified by Dr. Kevin O'Hara that only one of the 3-4 tracks that forestry students can pursue is SAF accredited, with that track being the professional track. Other tracks, such as Human Dimensions, are not currently SAF accredited. This will affect future Cal forestry graduates in application to become registered as Professional Foresters. Students with non-SAF accredited Bachelor of Science degrees from Cal may only be eligible for two years of educational experience, whereas SAF accredited degrees are worth 4 years of experience. The PFEC directed the Executive Officer to be very diligent in review of future applications for registration to assure that the appropriate amount experience is granted to these applicants.

Member Gilless also commented that SAF is currently working on an alternative accreditation, starting with SUNI University. The PFEC directed staff to investigate this new accreditation program and report back to the committee during the next meeting.

3. Status Report and Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding with Federal Agencies for Compliance with Professional Foresters Law

The Executive Officer reported that no outreach was conducted in the recent past. An inquiry was placed with NRCS to determine if any discussion at the Federal Agency level had occurred in regards to the letter sent several months back. No discussions have occurred.

Chairman Ferrier offered the Committee a copy of an article "Forest Service Plans for Private Timberland" as a means of demonstrating the potential need for licensed Federal foresters in California.

Member Rodrigues reported on the Sierra Cascades Dialog Sessions and the "All Lands Discussion" may be of particular interest to the Licensing Office in regards to state licensing of federal foresters.

4. Discussion of Status of Contracts for Expert Examiner and Expert Graders

The Executive Officer reported that the contract for the Expert Examiner is nearing final execution and is believed to be within a couple of weeks of finalization. The Expert Grader contracts were both fully executed as well, but as discussed earlier in the meeting, the process has been reinitiated due to the passing of Mr. George Belden.

5. Discussion of Dates and Locations for 2013 PFEC Meetings

The committee directed the Executive Officer to poll the committee members on the best potential meeting dates in 2013 via email communication. Meeting dates will be set by the Executive Officer based on member availability.

6. Discussion of Approval of Dr. Susan Marshall to the Cal-PAC CRM Panel.

The Executive Officer reported that he had attended the last Panel meeting, where Dr. Susan Marshall was nominated as a panel member. Dr. Marshall is a professor of Soil Science at Humboldt State University, well respected member of the community, and carries a valid CRM license.

12-13-02 - Member Flynn moved to accept the nomination of Dr. Susan Marshall to the CRM Panel. Member van Emmerik seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion of Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Compliance

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

8. Discussion of Codifying the Certified Resource Manager (CRM) Professional Guidelines

Executive Officer, Dias, reported that the CRM Panel had provided an approved Certified Resource Manager (CRM) Professional Guidelines (guidelines) and have asked the PFEC to review, accept and codify the guidelines into regulation. It was explained that the November 1993 guidelines are in regulation via reference in 14 CCR 1651 (c), but that the Panel would like to see the guidelines in prose form in the regulations (i.e. Forest Practice Rules).

Executive Officer, Dias, explained that there are two methods in getting this accomplished, with one being a Section 100 rule change that would update the existing regulation with a contemporary date on the Board reviewed guidelines, or going through the Board rules making process to get the guidelines incorporated in prose form into 14 CCR 1651.

The Executive Officer provided the committee with a workbook of background documentation that will be required reference documents during the review of the guidelines and explained the various components of the workbook, which include, specific statutes and regulations that pertain to the specialty certification, excerpts from the Final Statement of Reasons during the initial rule making accepting the CRM specialty in 1993/94, District Attorneys findings on the CRM program, currently referenced 1992 CRM guidelines, 2012 Panel adopted guidelines, and 2012 Panel adopted guidelines with comment from the Executive Officer.

The Chairman provided direction to the committee to review the package of materials provided by the Executive Officer and further deliberation will occur on this issue during the February meeting and also directed the Executive Officer to prepare a plead format of the guidelines that could potentially be incorporated into regulation.

9. Discussion of History of the PFEC and Development of a White Paper

Chairman Ferrier discussed that lack of information that exists on the history of the PFEC and that the development of a white paper or other resource document may provide utility to future members of the PFEC, Board, public or the Department. Discussion amongst the committee members occurred in regards to the location of PFEC minutes, past membership of the committee and other historical resources that could be used in the research and development of a historical reference of the PFEC.

The Executive Officer committed to looking into the location and completeness of the past meeting minutes and or other records of the PFEC that could be useful and report back to the committee.

10. New and Unfinished Business

No new or unfinished business was discussed.

02-12-03 Member van Emmerik moved to adjourn the open session and Member Rodrigues seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

